

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please enter the attached Replacement Sheets for sheet 4/11 (Figs. 4a and 4b), sheet 5/11 (Fig. 5) and sheet 6/11 (Fig. 6) of the drawings. The figures have been amended, as required by the Examiner, to include a “Prior Art” legend.

REMARKS

With entry of the foregoing Amendment, claims 1-4, as amended, are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1-3, which were allowed by the examiner, have not been amended. Claim 4 has been amended to more particularly point out that an end face of the outer race in one of the pair of bearings is adjacent to an end of the internal gear pins and the end face of the outer race regulates movement in an axial direction of the external gear. The drawings have been amended to properly designate Figs. 4a, 4b, 5 and 6 as “Prior Art.” Support for these amendments can be found in at least the original claims, Figs. 1,2, 7 and 11 and specification paragraphs [0016]–[0019], [0031], [0032], [0036], [0037], [0043] and [0046] of the published application.

Accordingly, no new matter has been added to the present application as a result of the above-described amendments and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with M.P.E.P. § 608.02(g) because Figs. 4a, 4b, 5 and 6 should be designated by a legend that indicates that these illustrations are of the prior art. In accordance with the Examiner’s comments, Applicants have amended Figs. 4a, 4b, 5 and 6 to include a legend that indicates that these figures are “Prior Art.”

In view of these amendments to the drawings, Applicants respectfully submit that the drawings, as amended, are in full compliance with the requirements and request that the objection to the drawings be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP11-210843 (the ‘843 reference). The Examiner asserts that the ‘843 reference discloses each and every element of independent claim 4. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of amended independent claim 4.

A claim is anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102 only if each and every element, as set forth in the claim, is found expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference. M.P.E.P. § 2131. Further, the elements must be arranged as required in the claim. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990). Thus, in order to anticipate a claim, a single reference must teach each and every element of the claim and the elements of the reference must be arranged as required in the claim.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 3, the '843 reference discloses an internal gear which consists of two or more pins formed in an inner circumference of a case. An inner ring 22 provides detachment prevention to the pins 12a [0015]. Specifically, paragraph [0015] of the '843 reference states:

In the speed reducer according to the embodiment as described above, in a state that each of the inner ring 22 of the rolling bearings 20A, 20B is attached to the casing 11 together with the carrier 19, the pins 12a are prevented from being detached by the inner rings 22. Accordingly, it is not necessary to provide separate member for preventing the detachment of the pins. Further, since the inner rings 22 also regulate movements of the external gears 14, 15 in the axial direction of the pins 12a, number of parts can be further reduced.

[Emphasis added]

Amended independent claim 4 is directed to an oscillating gear device and recites as follows:

an internal gear having internal gear pins on an inner periphery thereof;
a carrier rotatable relative to the internal gear;
a pair of bearings, each having a rolling element and a ring body having an outer race and an inner race for supporting the rolling element and disposed between an outer periphery of the carrier and the inner periphery of the internal gear;
a crank shaft freely rotatably mounted on the carrier; and
an external gear equipped with external teeth, engaged with the internal gear pins on the outer periphery thereof, fitted to a crank portion of the crank shaft and disposed between the pair of bearings, wherein the external gear makes an eccentrically oscillating motion by rotation of the crank shaft so that a rotational output is taken out from one of the internal gear and the carrier, wherein an end face of the outer race in one of said pair of bearings is adjacent to an end of the internal gear pins, and said end face of the outer race regulates movement in an axial direction of the external gear.
[Emphasis added]

Applicants respectfully submit that the '843 reference fails to disclose each and every element of amended independent claim 4 of the present application. Specifically, the '843 reference fails to disclose, teach or even suggest that an end face of the outer race regulates movement in an axial direction of the external gear, as is recited in amended independent claim 4. In contrast, as seen above, the '843 reference explicitly states that the inner race or ring 22 regulates movement of the external gears 14, 15 in the axial direction of the pins 12a.

In both the device of the present application and that of the '843 reference, the outer race or ring is stationery to the pins, whereas the inner race or ring rotates relative to the pins.

Further, in both devices the external gears rotate with respect to the internal pin gears and, thus, the external gears rotate with respect to the outer race or ring as well. However, the '843 reference teaches that the inner race or ring 22, which rotates relative to the pins, prevents the pins from being detached. On the other hand, the device recited in amended independent claim 4 teaches that the outer ring, which is stationery to the pins, holds the pins for preventing the pin detachment.

Further, since neither the '843 reference nor any other reference currently cited by the Examiner discloses that an end face of the outer race regulates movement in an axial direction of the external gear, as is recited in amended independent claim 4, Applicants respectfully submit that it could not have been obvious to create the device recited in amended independent claim 4.

Based on the above, the '843 reference fails to disclose each and every element of amended independent claim 4. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 4 is not anticipated by the '843 reference and Applicants respectfully request the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-3 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing Amendment and Remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1-3 and amended claim 4, is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Replacement Sheets